Lindsey Martin

Annotated Bibliography

1. Milne, A., & Plourde, L. A. (2006). Factors of a Low-SES Household: What Aids Academic Achievement?. *Journal Of Instructional Psychology*, *33*(3), 183-193.

This article discusses the effects of low socioeconomic status on children in elementary school and their academic achievement. The research they conducted found that children from low SES tend to do worse in school and score lower on standardized test than children coming from higher SES, although there were many exceptions. Children coming from poorer families have less access to educational resources that are available to children in higher SES families. They also tend to have fewer books in their homes and live in houses that are overcrowded, which makes it harder for parents to spend time helping children with school work. For their study, they chose six second grade students, having high academic achievement, who qualified for the free and reduced lunch program. They also interviewed the primary caretaker of each of the children. They found that each of the parents tried to provide as many educational resources to their children as they could and they also set aside time each day to help their children with homework. The research also found that the mother’s level of education varied in each case although they all felt it was important make sure their children understand the importance of having an education. Overall, they found that a child coming from a low SES home does not necessarily do worse in school than a child coming from a high SES home.

This article proves that a child coming from a low SES home does not always do poorly in school. There are many other factors that determine a child’s achievement in school. I found this article to be very insightful because it proved that low SES does not determine the outcome of how well a child does in school. This article proved that every child has the ability to succeed in school regardless of their SES. This article supports the academic achievement of every student.

2. Baggerly, J., & Borkowski, T. (2004). Applying the ASCA National Model to Elementary School Students Who Are Homeless: A Case Study. *Professional School Counseling*, *8*(2), 116-123.

This article discussed a case study of an African American elementary school female that was homeless. According to the Institute for Children and Poverty, there are more than one million homeless children in the U.S. per year. Some of the things they found about homeless children were that they had less social support and coping behaviors. Homeless children tend to experience more depression and anxiety. They tend to show more aggressive behavior. Homeless elementary students performed significantly more poorly on academic tests. Homeless children were also diagnosed with learning disabilities at double the rate of children who were not homeless. During the case study when they looked at the African American elementary student, Regina, they found that she had a difficult time making and keeping friends, low frustration tolerance, and her teachers reported she had a poor self-concept, impulsivity, depressed, distractibility, anxiety and irritability. Some of the things they do to improve Regina’s performance in school was implementing the “Stop and Think” model of social skills and implementing a classroom-wide behavior management system.

Reading this article provided an insight into the lives of homeless elementary students. It discusses specific problems that homeless children have to face and how those problems affect children. Although I was not surprised to read about the many different way homelessness affects children, it is really sad to hear about some of the difficulties these children have to face at such a young age. Despite all the efforts taken by teachers to help the students in the classroom, it is ultimately up to each student to be able to create a positive attitude towards school.

3. Rawsthorn, Alice. "Putting New Tools in Students' Hands." *The New York Times*. The New York Times, 22 Aug. 2010. Web. 29 Nov. 2015.

In this article from the New York Times, it discusses Project H (the H stands for humanity, habitats, health and happiness). Project H is designed to teach students from poor rural communities design skills, leadership skills, shop skills and citizenship. Project H is helping a school in Bertie County, North Carolina. So far Project H has built a playground with car tires at each of the elementary schools in Bertie on which kids can design and play games. They have also designed three high school computer labs for students. The main goal of Project H is to build the students’ confidence and teach them basic skills and principles of design. So far it has had a really positive outcome among students.

From this article, I think Project H is a great way to help improve academic achievement of students coming from poor communities. They have come up with some great ways to get students to achieve success while they are in school by being creative and using technology. I think this is a great way to get students motivated to learn and create something they might be interested in and ultimately help them in their future.

4. Guo, Jeff. "These Kids Were Geniuses - They Were Just Too Poor for Anyone to Discover Them." *Washington Post*. The Washington Post, 22 Sept. 2015. Web. 29 Nov. 2015.

This article considers the different areas that gifted students come from. It explains how most gifted students come from suburban areas and wealthier communities where parents were more involved in education. They tend to be primarily white with a much smaller percentage being black and Hispanic. They also explained that even when there are high achieving, low-income students, they tend to be less confident and therefore do not apply to more selective colleges even though they could probably get in. They related this to elementary students because there are students who are more talented than is realized and there is nothing being done to help them excel. They article wrote that kids from poor families are less likely to get the stimulation needed at home and they are also less likely to be pushed by parents and teachers to enter into gifted programs.

I thought this article gave a lot of information on comparing students’ home life with their academic achievement. It is important to know how much of a difference someone can make in a child’s life just by giving them encouragement in school. The article stated “missed chances early in life contribute to more missed chances down the line”. I agree with this statement because during elementary school, children can be very influential and if they are told they can succeed by their teachers and parents, it can give them the extra push they need to work harder towards a better future for themselves.

5. "The Condition of Education - Population Characteristics - Demographics - Children Living in Poverty - Indicator May (2015)." *The Condition of Education - Population Characteristics - Demographics - Children Living in Poverty*. National Center for Education Statistics, 1 May 2015. Web. 30 Nov. 2015.

This article discusses the amount of children and families living in poverty in America. The article compared the number of families living in poverty from 2013 to 1990. The article reported that 37 states plus the District of Columbia had higher poverty rates for children in school than in 1990 and 11 states had poverty rates very similar to those in 1990. There were many children living in poverty in 2013 in the U.S. About 15.6 million or 22 percent of all children under the age of 18 were living with families in poverty and 4.8 million of those children were under the age of 5.

This article was really shocking to me. Although I knew there are many families living in poverty, this article presented actual numbers of the amount of children living in poverty. It is very eye opening to read articles like this because it gives you an idea of just how many families and children are really struggling. It is heartbreaking to think that almost one quarter of the children in America are living in poverty and have to deal with so many struggles at such a young age.